

The Purpose of Parables

As I pointed out in the first part the purpose of parables are to illustrate spiritual truths so they may be plainly understood. In the eleventh chapter of 2nd Samuel we are told the story of King David lusting after another man's wife. Although King David had scores of concubines at his disposal he wanted what was not his. After sleeping with and impregnating this man's wife he arranged for her husband, a loyal soldier, to die in battle, then took his wife as one of his own. This greatly angered the Lord. In dealing with King David God needed to make him understand why what he had done was so wicked in His eyes. So God sent the prophet Nathan to tell him a parable.



And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him:

"There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him."

And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. 2nd Samuel 12:1-9 (KJV) 

The purpose of the bible is to illustrate God's ways to us. He wants us to know Him not only as the loving and merciful God that He is, but just. While King David's sin was punished on earth, our judgment will take place on Judgment Day. Only those that believe in Jesus Christ will escape their just punishment for their sins. It isn't too late, won't you repent while there is still time?

I like to refer to parables as 'spiritual truth delivery systems'. The parable is often a difficult concept for the Atheist's mind to embrace, not for it's complexity, but it's simplicity. As people that are totally dependent on critical thought, the parable is resistant to the type of dissection that they thrive on, an entire concept wrapped in

a package. You either accept it or reject it.

par·a·ble [par-uh-buhl] Show IPA

—noun

1. a short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach some truth, religious principle, or moral lesson.

2. a statement or comment that conveys a meaning indirectly by the use of comparison, analogy, or the like.

Dictionary.com

As we see, the purpose of the parable is simple: To distill a sometimes complex spiritual truth into an easily understandable concept. The parable beckons the listener to not only do a bit of contemplation to understand it, but also to suspend their disbelief and perceive it with their heart. Which brings us to Matthew 13.

**And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?
He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of
the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

Matthew 13:10-11 (KJV) 

The disciples did not ask Jesus to explain the parable to them, they asked Him why He spoke to them (the gathered crowd) in parables. I believe the disciples already understood the parable. Jesus replies that the disciples have already been given the understanding needed to grasp the spiritual concepts, but the unbelievers haven't.

**Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they
hear not, neither do they understand.**

Matthew 13:13  (KJV)

So you see, the parable is a method Jesus used not to veil spiritual truth in mystery, but to unveil it for the unbelievers to perceive with their hearts.



